

THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY



The Sacramento Region:

- *Contributes 60 percent, or 22 million acre-feet of water flowing into the Delta.*
- *Provides water supply for much of California from Sacramento Valley runoff.*
- *Offers major habitat/spawning ground for several threatened and endangered fish species.*
- *Contributes significantly to the state's farmlands and agriculture output.*
- *Provides major resting areas for the Pacific flyway waterfowl.*
- *Provides a dynamic hydrologic interaction between rivers and aquifers, which benefits fisheries, habitat, and wildlife.*

Innovative Partnerships

Several integrated regional programs exist in the Sacramento Valley that are meeting local water needs for farms, wildlife refuges, cities and local communities and the environment. Many of these programs will help implement the CALFED Plan and will provide benefits to the Bay-Delta and the rest of the state. These exciting and innovative partnerships include the Sacramento Valley Water Management Program, the Northern Sacramento Valley Water Forum, the Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum, Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition, the Sacramento River Watershed Program, and the Four-County Water Quality Partnership.

Regional Priorities and Issues

- Provide wildlife friendly agricultural practices and landowner assurances associated with projects to restore habitat function in areas dominated by agricultural uses.
- Enhance regional water supply reliability and flexibility to accommodate local water-short areas by improving water diversions for agriculture, environmental, urban within the region prior to export to other areas.
- Protect source water quality and preserve water rights.
- Improve flood management through watershed, habitat, and levee restoration, surface storage, and fish barrier removal for better protection of agricultural and urban areas.
- Preserve water quality for all beneficial uses through source control, mine remediation and habitat improvements.
- Enhance the Sacramento River recreational fishing and local economic development.
- Increase local resource development by local/regional/ CALFED partnerships in all areas of the watershed.
- Provide regulatory certainty associated with participation in conservation easements and habitat restoration.

Statewide Benefits:

Many Sacramento Valley actions directly benefit other regions. These include:

- Improving source water quality improves water quality throughout the Bay-Delta system
- Creating new surface storage, which when used conjunctively with groundwater storage, will improve water quality and flexibility for water supply reliability.
- Improving diversions with fish-friendly screens and barrier removal and other habitat improvements contributes to greater overall populations of salmon in the Sacramento River and Bay-Delta system, allowing for better water supply reliability throughout the state.
- Improving upper watershed management increases water supply reliability and water quality for the Delta system.
- Expanding Shasta Dam would provide statewide benefits including water supply reliability and ecosystem benefits to aquatic species.
- Constructing North of Delta offstream storage can provide statewide benefits including water supply reliability, improved water quality, and ecosystem benefits, as well as contributing water and storage to the Environmental Water Account.



Regional Accomplishments



Water Supply Reliability

- \$35.7 million invested in 37 local projects to improve groundwater management and expand conjunctive use in the Sacramento Valley, with a potential water supply yield of 36,300 acre-feet annually.
- Progress made on studies for potential north-of-Delta offstream storage and Shasta Lake enlargement. The proposed projects are among five surface storage options being studied to increase storage capacity and provide flexibility to the state's water system.
- \$11 million in grants awarded for agricultural and urban water use efficiency programs.
- Water transfers streamlined and transfer agreements facilitated that protect local water users, economies and ecosystems.



Water Quality

- Investments made in regional water quality planning activities in Butte, Colusa, Glenn and Tehama Counties.
- The Ecosystem Restoration and Watershed Management Programs have provided \$1.2 million to investigate sources of mercury in the Sacramento River watershed, including an inventory of abandoned mine sites.
- \$4 million has been provided to develop and evaluate practices to reduce organophosphate pesticide runoff and provide education to agricultural and urban users to improve water quality.



Ecosystem Restoration and Watershed Management

- \$183 million invested in 143 local ecosystem projects, including 53 fish passage improvement projects. Recently funded projects include riparian restoration along the Sacramento River near Hamilton City and research to study Sacramento River flows that can restore the river's ecosystem.
- The Watershed program has funded 55 projects for \$27 million for local groups to do watershed assessments and develop watershed plans, monitoring, and implement watershed restoration activities in the Sacramento River watershed.
- The Watershed program has provided funds for 24 watershed coordinators to assist with community based management efforts within the region.